



## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL AND THE (ESA) LETTER

BNADOG assists anyone needing to reach a level in their training to meet the ESA Dog requirements. At the completion of training and to the satisfaction and discretion of the trainer a letter is then issued to provide verification to licensed professionals that the handler and dog have been trained, are safe, not a nuisance and have met the behavioral requirements for the individuals companion animal to become a LEGAL ESA DOG

An **emotional support animal (ESA)** is a type of animal that provides comfort to help relieve a symptom or effect of a person's disability. Under the governing law, an emotional support animal is not a pet and is generally not restricted by species.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

An emotional support animal differs from a service animal. Service animals are trained to perform specific tasks<sup>[3]</sup> (such as helping a blind person navigate), while emotional support animals receive no specific training, nor even, necessarily, any training at all. (It therefore stands that in the setting of mental illness, whether or not the animal is a "service animal" vs. an emotional support animal would hinge on whether or not it is formally trained to do something specific to mitigate the mental illness.) Any animal that provides support, well-being, comfort, or aid, to an individual through companionship, unconditional positive regard, and affection may be regarded as an emotional support animal.<sup>[4]</sup>

In the U.S., people with emotional or mental disabilities can be exempted from certain federal housing and travel rules if they own an emotional support animal. To receive that exemption, they must meet the federal definition of disabled, and they must present a letter from a certified healthcare provider, stating that the animal provides emotional support that alleviates one or more of the symptoms or effects of the disability.

An **emotional support animal letter**, or an ESA letter, is a document that qualifies people to be accompanied by a support animal in contexts in which pets might not be permitted. The letter must be issued by a psychiatrist, qualified mental health professional, or primary care physician.

Under US Department of Transportation, rules, the doctor, or mental health professional who issues the letter must be currently providing treatment to the individual. Airlines are not obligated to accept certificates or letters that are more than one year old, and may require that the certification be provided on the letterhead of a licensed mental health professional or doctor who is specifically treating the passenger's mental or emotional disability.

ESA owners are currently permitted to have their animals with them on commercial flights in the US, with the proper papers saying they are under the care.

- Does the emotional support animal compromise the safety of others?
- Does the animal pose a danger to others?
- Is the owner able to properly care for his or her emotional support animal





- If the owner is neglecting his or her emotional support animal and the neglect rises to a level where the animal is endangered police or animal control may be contacted to intervene.

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